



THE TOKEN HUNTER

ATA A Publication of *National Utah Token Society*, 6143 Rainy Lane, Murray, Utah 84107

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting is scheduled for the 27th. The format will be the bourse floor, and all in attendance will get a chance to buy, sell, trade, or just show and tell. Bourse meetings are always a lot of fun, so plan to attend and bring some items with you if you like. With the increasing interest in token and medal collecting some items are becoming very rare and difficult to acquire. Now is the time to add to your collection and the bourse provides a good opportunity.

The March meeting is also the deadline of the medal design competition for the 1986 NUTS medal. A few minutes of the meeting will be set aside for membership voting on the enteries that are submitted. If you have an idea, why not take the time to sketch it out and bring it to the meeting, you could win.

The schedule for summer digs is just about ready and once again your suggestions and comments are encouraged. If you have a special place you would like the club to plan a dig, now is the time to make your voice heard.

The meeting promises to be a great one, and your attendance will make it even better. Thursday March 27 is the date, please plan on attending. NUTS is in existence to serve it's members, and to do that best we need to hear from you. Let's try and make the March meeting the best attended ever.

NEW MEMBER

We would like to welcome our newest member, Ross Seely of Murray. NUTS is glad to have you among our membership.

Any news, views, or info you'd like to share? Tell someone about it. If you would like to have an ad or an article appear in the TOKEN HUNTER call the Editor.

| | | |
|---------|------------------------|----------|
| PRES.. | George Wilson..... | 250-7052 |
| V.P.... | Lance Johnson..... | 485-9435 |
| SEC.... | Mary Moulton..... | 964-2515 |
| TREA.. | Frank Sommers..... | 262-1085 |
| W.M.... | Bruce Robinson..... | 967-6607 |
| W.M.... | Ken Lambson..... | 968-2297 |
| B.M.... | Bob Campbell | 467-8636 |
| ED.... | Glen & Robin Sidwell.. | 467-9566 |

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Well, Here it is March again, and the calendar says that spring is just around the corner. The weather the past few weeks has me convinced that spring has already arrived. This exceptionally good weather has given me a bad case of spring fever. This time of year I always have a difficult time deciding weather to take care of my yard work or do some metal detecting. Unfortunately, the yard work usually wins out. Perhaps with the early spring this year, I'll have more time to metal detect.

I have heard that our first dig will be coming up soon. I am watching for the Wagonmaster's page, and hoping that a day at one of the ghost towns will help with this desire to get out into the wilds again.

March is also our first bourse meeting of the year. If you are not familiar with our bourse meetings, it simply means that there will be no set program that evening, and the time will be devoted to buying, selling, or just shooting the breeze.

March 27th meeting will also be the deadline for all entries in the new medal design competition. We will be voting on the design at this meeting, so bring your ideas along and share them with us. Who knows, you could be the designer of our 1986 Medal.

The first area coin show is also being held this month. The Ogden Coin Club is hosting the Northern Utah Coin Show March 21 through 23 at the Ogden Hilton. I hope that you can make the time to attend this show, it is well worth it.

Speaking of coin shows, if you attended the A.N.A Midwinter Convention last month I am sure you will join me in expressing the heartiest con-

gradulations to all those who helped in organizing a really great event. I am sure this convention will be remembered as one of the best in Utah and a high point for Utah numismatists. From the ribbon cutting on Thursday to the closing on Saturday, the convention was enjoyable, educational, and entertaining.

For NUTS, the convention got off to an excellent start, beginning with the combined club meetings of NUTS and UNA. The slide presentation on sunken treasure was great. We saw some unbelievable pictures of an entire room filled with silver bars, thousands of pieces of eight, in all a treasure that has been valued at as high as \$400,000,000. Thanks go out to Niel Harris, Ken Bresett, and UNS for treating us to such an enjoyable evening.

One of the things that I enjoyed most at the Midwinter Convention were the exhibits. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the NUTS members who placed exhibits in the show. There were always large crowds in the exhibit area, and it was evident to me that it was one of the most popular areas on the bourse floor. The many favorable comments that I overheard also supports this view. The club members that exhibited their collections helped to educate others to token collecting and to show the type of numismatic items that are available in Utah and surrounding areas.

When the bourse floor closed at 6 pm Saturday it was announced that over 6,000 people had registered at the reception desk. That figure made the Salt Lake convention the best attended Midwinter Convention ever. I hope that the ANA will take note of this and return to Salt Lake City again soon.

By the way, does anyone know exactly how many different items were produced for the ANA convention? I know of four different medals, and three different wooden nickels, but there may be more. Perhaps someone with the information could put together

a brief article for the TOKEN HUNTER. It would be interesting to know the articles produced for the convention.

In closing, I would like to say a few words once again about dues. Our organization has many wonderful events coming up later this year. Along with the outings and regular meetings, we will once again be sponsoring the Salt Lake City Coin and Token Show. The club picnic is being planned for later this summer, and of course, the annual Christmas party to close out the year. None of these activities would be possible without the support of our membership in the form of dues. While it is true that we raise some of our funds by other means, we rely heavily on the money from dues payments to keep our club going. Your dues provide a monthly meeting site and keep the TOKEN HUNTER coming to your home. Thanks to those of you who have already paid dues, and to those of you who have not sent in payment for 1986, please do so right away.

I hope to see you all at the meeting on March 27th.

George

PLACES TO WATCH

Magna, Utah began in 1906 as a mill town at the base of the Oquirrh mountains. It was originally a farming area, but when the Utah Copper Company began building a concentrate mill there, many of the residents gave up farming to work on the mill. In 1914 the original town plat was laid out and it is basically the same today. Many small subdivisions were built, and then dismantled during the years because of the expanding operations of the mill.

On the 19th, Brian Moulton and I decided to try a few spots in Magna. The first site we chose was an old home that was vacant and in dis-repair. Bryan was working the back yard and discovered two very nice rings. One of which is a mans wedding band of 18k gold. The bullion value alone is \$60.00. I

came up with a 1919-s penny and a tool check from Utah Copper Company.

Our next stop was Main Street. We were both surprised to see so many vacant lots in this area. A friend had told Brian that many of these lots once were occupied by saloons, pool halls, and a hotel. With only a little time remaining to look, we chose a lot reported to be the site of an old saloon. I found a token for the Orpheum Bar/ good for 5¢ in trade/ 531 west 2nd south/ Salt Lake City. This made my day. If you get the chance, head for Magna and you may return home with some good finds.

The change in soil conditions can provide you with metal detecting opportunities in some cases. I found this out when, on a whim, I returned to a spot I had detected last summer. The location was a park strip on 4th north in Salt Lake City. When I first detected here it was hot and the soil was very dry, this time the soil was moist and I set my discrimination a little lower to see if I could pick anything up. To my surprise, I did.

I found a 1930-s buffalo nickle and a bus token in the same hole. A few minutes later I came up with a 1925-d buffalo nickle and a 1940 Jefferson nickle in the same hole. About ten feet south of this spot I pulled up a token from the Wilson Pool Parlor/ good for 5¢ in trade. According to



Campbell's Tokens of Utah, Wilson Pool Parlor was located in the basement of the Wilson Hotel from 1913-1931, and the token is an R-5.

Anyway, to end the day I discovered a silver Boy Scout ring in great condition, a pretty good find. I would encourage you to perhaps return to some of the spots that you detected when the weather was hot and dry. The cool, moist weather now might enable you to find a few surprises also.

DIGGIN'S

Howdy NUTS! We've only got a couple of finds to report this month, but with the spring like weather we've been having, there should be more in the coming weeks.

Harold Franke headed out to West Dip during a recent bout with spring fever. He found an indian head penny and a token from the Oquirrh Bar in Mercur. Good finds, Harold! Harold told me his secrets to finding the token you want. First, follow your feelings and hunches, secondly, buy the token, and within six months you will find an identical one!

I have only been out once with my detector. It seems all this moving to our new house has kept me kind of busy. I did take out a few minutes to attend the ANA show, and came home with an unlisted Helper token.

Bob Campbell purchased an Escalante Ice Cream Store token from Cedar City. That is a pretty exciting token Bob!

Now it's your turn to share your finds. Give me a call at 967-6607 and share the excitement! Until next month, good luck and good diggin'.

Bruce

TOKENS! TOKENS!

Each member in attendance at the March meeting will receive a free token, not amusement tokens, but the real thing. Another first will be an opportunity to try your luck at a token grab. For a \$1.00 a try, you can reach into a box of tokens and select one. As an incentive, and to add excitement, the box will contain a Utah saloon token. Come and try your luck.

All tokens have been generously donated by Bob and Carol Campbell, owners of All About Coins, 1123 East 2100 South, Salt Lake City, UT.

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COMMENT COMMENT COMMENT

Protecting Utah's Past Is Our Responsibility

One of the favorite past-times of all treasure seekers is to travel to ghost towns where they can search for some relic of the past. Weather seeking bottles, coins, tokens, or other items, prowling around old town sites is fun. Our trips have lead us to many of the historic towns of Utah and we have always enjoyed seeing the remains and visulizing what life in the towns would have been like. This is one of the benifits of treasure hunting the desolate ghost towns, you can almost imagine yourself as part of the society that once lived there. On more than one occasion however, my historical daydreams have been shattered by modern day reality in the form of garbage and vandalism.

One of the credos of NUTS members is to always leave an area in better shape than you found it. It is in our best interest to preserve the ghost towns and wilderness areas not only for our future enjoyment, but for the enjoyment of our children. It is important to remember too, that our children learn by example. Let's not only teach them the pleasure that treasure seeking in these areas can provide, but the responsibility they must take in preserving these historic areas of our state.

By following a few simple guidelines we can not only prevent the decline of these areas, but improve them.

Always take your trash out with you. Some items are quickly bio-degradeable, like apple cores, orange rinds, or food scraps, that will be eaten by wildlife or decompose rapidly, any thing else should be taken

out with you. If you have a campfire you can burn most paper and plastic items, otherwise take it with you because it takes too long to decompose and is unsightly.

Never deface or destroy property. Any buildings, foundations, equipment or relics should be enjoyed by everyone. Most of these are declining at a rapid pace due to time and the elements, do not help. Using these for target, practice or to write your memories on ruins them.

If you dig a hole, fill it up. This is especially important to do because not only does an open hole create an eyesore, it also creates a hazard. Young children who like to explore can easily stumble into a large hole that has been left unfilled.

Pick up. I am not suggesting a whole scale clean-up of an area, but it is just as easy to pick up a can as it is to kick it out of your way. Kids could even make a few dollars by collecting all the aluminum cans on your outings.

Treasure hunters are not only the primary users of ghost town areas, we also take much from the area in the form of the relics we find. As such we should all strive to care for these areas that we enjoy so much. On your next outing, take with you when you leave, not only the treasure that you find, but the trash that you brought in.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

GEORGE WILSON

I was born in Payson, and raised in the small central Utah town of Nephi. After graduating from Juab High, I attended S.U.S.C. in Cedar City and Snow College in Ephriam. While at S.U.S.C. I met my wife, Teresa. Teresa was born in Cedar City and raised in Beaver.

Shortly after our marriage we moved to Salt Lake City, and have lived in the area since. We have three daughters; Leslie, Karen, and Jennifer. I have worked for the past 15 years as an auto mechanic and I am presently New Cae Service Manager for a Salt Lake City auto dealer.

My father ran his own business in Nephi, and I would often help to ro count and roll the change he brought home each night. It was not long before I noticed that not all the coins of each denomination were the same. This was in the early 1960's when several different types of coins were still circulating. Mercury dimes, buffalo nickels, standing liberty quarters, walking liberty halves along with occasional V nickels, or even silver dollars were so soon put away in an old cigar box. Soon Canadian and other foreign coins began joining them. I began collecting by date and mint mark. My collection soon outgrew the cigar box and I was well on my way as a coin collector.

My first encounter with trade tokens also came at an earlu age. I discovered four tokens in the till at my fathers business. I asked where they had come from, and my father told me that the tokens had been there since he had taken over the business, and

I could have them if I wanted. Two were from the Fairview CO OP, and two were mavericks. This was all it took to begin my fascination with Utah tokens.

My love for the old towns and history of Utah was inherited from my parents. My mother was born in Silver City a and her stories of the old days in the Tintic area and about her family have left me with a particular interest in that area.

My father was a miner for many years, and whenever he had a chance he would take my younger brother an myself with him on weekend prospecting trips. As we sat around the campfire at night, he would tell us about the old towns and the people who lived in them. These experience left me with an interest in Utah, and a special love for the Tintic mining district.

My numismatic specialities are world type coins, Phillipine and Canadian currency, and Utah and Nevada tokens, with special emphasis on tokens from the towns of Eureka, Robinson, Mammoth, Silver City, Diamond, and Dividend.

I belong to several numismatic organizations such as ANA, UNS, TAMS, and ATCO, but NUTS is my favorite. I joined in 1983, served as Wagonmaster in 1984, and have had the privilage of being the first NUTS president to be elected to two terms in office. I am looking foward to many more years with what I consider to be the best numismatic organization around.



THE MARKETPLACE

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OR
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